

black-and-white markings on the middle of the breast, which is mostly white in *C. ellioti*. The scaling of the tarso-metatarsus in this specimen seems to differ somewhat from that of *C. humia*, the whole of the hinder portion being clothed with rather small reticulate scales and lacking the row of scutes characteristic of the other two species; the tarso-metatarsus is, moreover, proportionately somewhat shorter.—W. R. O.-G.]

Of the 260 species enumerated in this list, no less than 50 are peculiar to the island of Formosa. It must, however, be noted that 3 of these species, viz. *Munia formosana*, *Spizixus cinereicapillus*, and *Sphenocercus formosæ*, are said to have been met with in other adjacent islands. Now of these the first and last-named are no doubt accidental stragglers to Luzon and the Babuyan Islands respectively, while with regard to *Spizixus cinereicapillus* there has probably been some mistake made. Either the specimen examined by Hartlaub did not come from Hainan (which seems most probable, as recent expeditions to that island have failed to meet with any species of *Spizixus*), or it may have been wrongly identified with *S. cinereicapillus*.

XII.—*On the Birds of Gazaland, Southern Rhodesia.*—
Part II. By C. F. M. SWYNNERTON*.

92. UPUPA AFRICANA. South-African Hoopoe.

I found these birds fairly plentiful but somewhat locally distributed; they prefer the thorn-and-grass-jungle type of country, and were common at Mafusi on my arrival there at the end of July 1900, when they were going about in pairs. In September, as a rule, they are very much in evidence, and their calls may be heard in every direction—whether as the result of a partial migration or of the fact that they are then less shy than at other times, I am unable to say: the natives to whom I have spoken on the subject

* Concluded from p. 74.

attribute it to the latter cause. In any case, the calling of the Hoopoe in September and the coming of the Kite are to them the two chief signs that hoeing-time has again come round. The Hoopoe is by no means partial to the forest, though in November last I put one out of a hollow tree in Chirinda, where it had, perhaps, been prospecting for a nesting-site. One instance has been brought to my notice where a pair built in a rough bark-hive placed in a tree to attract bees.

93. *IRRISOR VIRIDIS*. Kakelaar.

I have seen this bird on a few occasions only, in the open woods and again in the Jihu, and believe it to be anything but common.

94. *RHINOPOMASTUS CYANOMELAS*. Scimitar-bill.

Though not so scarce as the preceding species, this can hardly be described as one of our commoner birds. I have come across it in various parts of the district, but it shews a decided preference for grass-jungle country, and is commonest, perhaps, in the Jihu and at the lower altitudes in Mafusi's country.

95. *CYPSELUS*, sp. inc.*

A number of these birds visited my homestead at Mafusi on the 9th of August, 1899, and remained wheeling about in the neighbourhood for an hour or two. I secured a male; the contents of its crop were twelve bees and an ichneumon-fly. Length in the flesh 8·75 inches.

96. *CAPRIMULGUS RUFIGENA*. Rufous-checked Nightjar.

Probably plentiful. A female, which I shot in July—sitting, as is the bird's habit, in the centre of a path—had already well-developed eggs in her ovaries. I have not found that any distinction is drawn between the various species of Nightjars by the natives, who appear to regard them all as females of the long-plumed Standard-wing.

* [Determined by Capt. Shelley as *C. æquatorialis* v. Müll., but more likely to be *C. niansæ* Reichenow.—P. L. S.]

97. *CAPRIMULGUS TRIMACULATUS*. Freckled Nightjar.

I secured a male of this species in June last; it was sitting at dusk in the centre of a road. The crop contained several Melalonthid beetles. Bill black, legs and feet grey. Length in the flesh 11.75 inches.

98. *CAPRIMULGUS FOSSIL*. Mozambique Nightjar.

An abundant bird: the call either of this or of the other common species (I have never secured one in the act of calling) is heard most frequently in October, when they are commencing to breed. It is distinctly musical, and by the natives is rendered by a name which signifies, "Grandpapa, I have married a wife" (literally, "the wife is paid for"). The crops examined contained beetles and in one case ova, probably of a large moth. Legs purplish grey.

99. *COSMETORNIS VEXILLARIUS*. Standard-wing Nightjar.

I have found this Nightjar to be very fairly distributed, though nowhere abundant. The stomach of a male, shot on the Lower Umswirezi in November last, as it was hawking up and down over the water at nightfall, contained a large scarlet bug, the remains of hymenopterous insects, and beetles. The iris was indistinguishable from the pupil except by a faint purplish glow which pervaded it: the legs were distinctly purplish brown.

A pair of eggs of this bird at present in my possession measure 28 mm. in length by 21 in breadth, and are pale pinkish brown in ground-colour, covered all over with irregular and ill-defined freckles and blotches of pale brown and still paler grey. The long primaries of this bird used to be reserved for the king.

100. *CORACIAS CAUDATUS*. Moselikatze's Roller.

On two occasions last winter, when I was burning grass, one of these birds visited the fire, taking up a position on a low tree hard by and making short flights after the insects that flew out. Though occurring in most parts of the district, "Blue Jays" are by no means so abundant here as in the neighbourhood of Salisbury. According to the

natives, they will not infrequently kill and eat small birds and mice, and in trapping for a Roller the men are in the habit of baiting with a mouse tied by the leg and surrounded by limed twigs.

101. *CORACIAS MOSAMBICUS*. Purple Roller.

Commoner than the preceding species, and not unfrequently to be seen in the open woods perched on a small tree or dead branch, whence it makes short sallies—often to the ground—after its prey. It is by no means particular as to its food: I found the stomach of one individual crammed with evil-smelling locusts of a kind which is rejected by all self-respecting birds, and a Purple Roller, which lived for some months in my aviary, would greedily devour these and other distasteful insects. This bird, already old when caught, became so tame within a fortnight of its being placed in the aviary, that it would fly to my hand for grasshoppers whenever I entered, sometimes uttering a short harsh cry when disappointed or made to await its turn. The grasshoppers, if of a fair size, it would usually toss into the air, catching them again, perhaps three or four times, in order to get them into correct position—head first—to be swallowed, and anything really large, though swallowed whole in the end, it would first batter and bruise against my hand or the perch. As its crop filled, the Roller would become slower and more meditative, until at last, with the wings and legs of the last locust still protruding, it would seize another and hold it in its mouth for as many as five or ten minutes together, anxiously waiting to swallow it. It ate two small Warblers which were placed in the aviary, but, in all probability, these were first slain by my Touraco, for the Roller's attitude towards its fellow-prisoners was never aggressive.

102. *EURYSTOMUS AFER*. Cinnamon Roller.

I have not met with this Roller very frequently on the highlands, but found it extremely plentiful singly or in pairs throughout the open bush of the valley of the Lower Umswirezi in November, as well as in the large trees bordering

the rivers. The birds were very bold, readily permitting a near approach as they sat upright, uttering their harsh cries, on the topmost twigs of the trees ; they preferred projecting dead branches, whence they could see and pounce upon passing insects without hindrance from the foliage. A female which I shot on the Chinyika in the same month contained an egg which would shortly have been laid ; and, also in November, a pair nested in a hole in the overhanging bough, unfortunately quite inaccessible, of a large tree on the outskirts of Chirinda. They brought off two young in safety, and remained about the spot for some weeks after these could fly, the four birds promptly attacking and chasing, for some three or four hundred yards—all the while dashing down on it from above with loud cries—every Hawk, Eagle, and Raven which ventured near the spot. Like *Coracias caudatus*, this bird is said by the natives to kill and eat small birds, and it is lured by them in the same way, with a striped mouse as a bait.

103. *MEROPS APIASTER*. European Bee-eater.

These birds are extremely plentiful during the summer months, especially in the Jihu type of country, where, in particular, they by no means restrict themselves to the neighbourhood of water, flocks, and even single individuals, being commonly found circling about and settling on trees and bushes some miles from the nearest good-sized stream. They are frequently to be seen flying swiftly at a great height in large flocks, uttering in unison a pleasant bell-like note. In 1899 they arrived in December, and I should say that the usual date is early in that month: they are always abundant during its latter half. They are said by the natives to call especially before rain.

104. *MELITTOPHAGUS MERIDIONALIS*. Little Bee-eater.

Fairly plentiful in grass-jungle, where, like the preceding species, it may commonly be found at considerable distances from water ; though elsewhere along the banks of rivers. I found a number of these birds settling on the reeds of the Lower Zona in December, and secured a female, in immature

plumage so far as the breast was concerned, but with the blue eyebrow and carmine iris, and measuring 7 inches in the flesh. This is a resident species.

105. *MELITTOPHAGUS BULLOCKOIDES*. White-fronted Bee-eater.

I came across this bird in some numbers in November last, on the banks of the Lower Umswirezi, where it was probably breeding. The crop of a male which I secured contained only a cicada. Legs and feet leaden grey.

106. *CERYLE RUDIS*. Pied Kingfisher.

This Kingfisher is occasionally found on the larger rivers, and is probably not uncommon throughout the district. I noticed three or four on the Chinyika and Lower Umswirezi.

107. *CORYTHORNIS CYANOSTIGMA*. Malachite Kingfisher.

At the moment of writing one of these charming little Kingfishers, in immature plumage, has been brought to me by a Kafir, who trapped it on the headwaters of the Umswirezi.

108. *HALCYON ORIENTALIS*. Peters's Kingfisher.

This is the common Kingfisher of the kloofs and open woods, where it is really abundant; it may frequently be seen perched on a horizontal branch, generally low in the tree, and using it as a base of operations. The stomachs examined contained beetles, usually of considerable size, grasshoppers, Melalonthid larvæ, large crickets, a locust, a crab, and bones of a lizard.

109. *HALCYON CHELICUTI*. Striped Kingfisher.

I have only secured a single specimen of this bird in the district, trapped in the open woods on the 11th of February.

110. *HALCYON CYANOLEUCUS*. Angola Kingfisher.

I watched an individual of this species, at close quarters, for a short time, when encamped on the Umsesi River (Mafusi's country), at the end of May 1900. My notebook contains merely a description of the bird, unfortunately without any

reference to its cry or habits, and I cannot trust my memory at this distance of time.

111. *COLIUS STRIATUS*. Speckled Mouse-bird.

This Coly is very abundant, going about, except during the breeding-season, in flocks of six, eight, or more individuals. They are inveterate orchard-thieves, attacking more especially the guava-crop, and, in their case, there are no extenuating circumstances as with the Bulbuls; out of a number of stomachs examined I have in no case found anything but the remains of fruit, wild or cultivated. I have never seen a nest of this species with more than three eggs (some have contained only two, the females, shot on leaving the nest, having no very advanced eggs in their ovaries), and both the whites and natives, whom I have consulted on this point, agree in stating that three is the full number of the clutch. The nests which have come under my observation were frequently, but by no means invariably, formed of green material, and were placed at from five to fifteen feet from the ground in a fork, in a bunch of twigs, or on a horizontal branch (supporting twigs being present) of a "Gombati" (*Erythrina* sp.) or other low tree, and once in the centre of a tangled thicket of *Clematis*—usually near water. Two nests now before me represent fairly well the two types referred to above. Both are loose and untidy structures with an outside diameter, exclusive of projecting twigs, of 5 inches, and a cup-diameter of 3: the latter is 2 inches deep. The first nest consists almost entirely of green twigs of wild asparagus—a very favourite material,—those forming the lining being almost stripped of their leaves; a very few small dry grass-stems are woven into the general material, and into the bottom of the cup are worked the remains of two green leaves of a common mallow-like plant, much torn and perforated by the bird's beak or claws. The second nest is similar in its general construction, but is composed entirely of dry grasses (chiefly in the lining) and old dry weeds with many of the leaves still attached. The hen bird sits close, sometimes requiring the bough to be

shaken before she will leave the nest, but once off she is undemonstrative, flying to the nearest dense thicket and remaining there till the danger is past. The eggs are of a dull white colour, opaque and somewhat rough, and those in my collection measure from 20 to 23 mm. in length by from 16 to 17 in breadth. The legs of this bird are here always rose-pink; the upper mandible of the bill is blackish, the lower dull white.

112. BUCORAX CAFER. Ground Hornbill.

Comparatively common in most parts of the district, and one of our most useful birds, accounting for large numbers of snakes and destructive insects. A party of four—this season five—are always to be seen in the neighbourhood of my homestead, evidently composed of the two old birds and the young of the last season, those of previous years being doubtless driven away or having wandered off to found beats of their own when the breeding-season comes round. They roost nightly in a certain projecting spur of forest composed of huge African mahoganies, and I have little doubt that it is in a hole in one of these trees that they annually hatch out their young. I can confirm to some extent Mr. Ayres's statement, quoted by Mr. W. L. Selater ('Fauna of S. Africa,' Birds, vol. iii. p. 105), with regard to the carrying-power of their call: birds booming on a hill 1000 yards from my house make so loud a sound that I feel sure that at twice that distance, and probably much more, under similar circumstances—a valley between—they could still be heard, though, of course, more faintly. The Tshindawo wording of the call, no less than the better-known Zulu rendering, brings out well the idea, suggested by the actual tones of the birds, of the plaintive wife and the gruff practical husband:

Female: "*Riti! Riti! mwana waenda!*" ("Riti! Riti! the child's gone!").

Male: "*Ndizo, ndidzóngëra tshero*" ("All right, the fewer mouths to feed!"—lit. "I have less trouble in getting food").

These birds are by no means shy, and on one or two occasions this season have done me good service in my tobacco-field. I once came across a party searching for food on the ground in the forest, though, as a rule, they prefer the short open grass-veld.

113. BYCANISTES BUCCINATOR. Trumpeter Hornbill.

Common not only in the forest, where it is not infrequently to be found in company with the next species, but elsewhere throughout the district: I have found it in the Jihu, and particularly on the Lower Umswirezi, where it frequents the large trees bordering the rivers. It can readily be distinguished from the other when on the wing or feeding by the far greater extent of white on its abdomen, its smaller and darker casque, and its slightly more plaintive and—if that will convey my meaning—less *brazen* braying. I have not found the nest of either species, but am informed by the natives that both plaster up the female during incubation, that they lay in December from two to four white eggs with light brownish markings—whether actual shell-coloration or mere blood-stains my informants were unable to tell me,—and that young birds are to be found in the nests in February. This all sounds probable enough, but it would be unsafe to place too much reliance on information of the kind, and, owing to the fact that I have not infrequently seen the birds in pairs when the female ought to be sitting and a prisoner, I am sceptical with regard to this point. These birds, in common with *B. cristatus*, are excellent eating, the flesh being dark and somewhat resembling that of a Crane in flavour. A native tradition associates the Trumpeter with the first cultivation of cereals by mankind. Long ago, says the story, man lived by hunting only, but one day a hunter, seeing a bird go into a hole in a large tree, went to the spot and found lying below some “Mapfundo” (*Sorghum*) and “Mungeza” (*Eleusine*): on his taking these home and shewing them to the people they accompanied him back to the tree, and, climbing up, found quite a store of grain, which they took and sowed: thus, say the

natives, did men first obtain seed for cultivation, and they named the bird "Ishérera-kuri" ("he that forages afar").

114. *BYCANISTES CRISTATUS*. Zambesi Trumpeter.

Bycanistes cristatus Ogilvie-Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xvii. p. 417.

I have found this bird up to the present only in Chirinda, where it is plentiful, though sometimes, doubtless when food in the forest is scarce, it will sally forth daily from the forest, singly, in pairs, or in parties, to feed elsewhere, returning in the evening, and I have little doubt that it will be found to utilize the other forest-patches of the district as bases to an equal extent. Its main food is afforded it by the crops of the various forest-species of *Ficus*, ripening at different times, and by the fruits of several other of the larger trees of the forest and veld; but in the winter it will also take toll of the passing swarms of locusts, one specimen which I examined last June having its stomach crammed with these insects. This example differed from the usual type in having a few rufous feathers behind and above each eye, and a nearly uniformly black crest, whitish spots occurring only on the cheeks; a casque and bill of the usual colour, but somewhat shorter and of a different shape, the front corner of the former, which usually projects at a fairly sharp angle, being rounded off.

The cries of these Hornbills are somewhat varied, but harsh in the extreme, something between the bray of a donkey and an idiotic laugh, and when a large mixed party of this and the following species are gorging themselves in the branches of a large fig-laden "Chisipi" or "Tsamvu," and break off the feast (till then, perhaps, interrupted only by an occasional short nasal sound of a conversational nature) to join, for a moment, all together, in one of their periodical noisy choruses, one involuntarily thinks of a diabolical midnight revel, somewhere in the lower regions, of maudlin Bacchanalians (*B. cristatus*) and lost souls (*B. buccinator*).

[This Hornbill is not included in Mr. W. L. Sclater's List, and is new to the South-African Fauna.—P. L. S.]

115. *LOPHOCEROS MELANOLEUCUS*. Crowned Hornbill.

This is the Common Hornbill of the open bush and a frequent visitor to the forest, where, as in the bush-veld, it will sit bolt upright on the tops of the higher trees uttering its shrill piping call; in the winter it may be met with going about in pairs or in flocks, sometimes numbering as many as ten or fifteen individuals, while occasionally one individual or a pair is to be found availing itself of the Drongo's protection. It is curious to watch these birds flying at a great height overhead, as in crossing a valley, when they suddenly decide to descend; they first dive down perpendicularly, or nearly so, for a few yards, and pull up with a short horizontal swoop; then shoot down again in like manner, and so on until they reach the ground very little in advance of the point in the air from which they started: the evolution might best be described on paper by placing a number of capital J's, with long stems and short tails, head to tail, downwards. Though usually at first difficult to approach, they resemble the Parrot in the fact that when one of their number has been shot, the survivors return and remain about the spot.

The crops examined contained seeds, including those of some of the larger forest-trees, locusts, a large green bug, a large flower-beetle, and other beetles of various kinds. Length in the flesh 18·5 inches.

116. *HAPALODERMA NARINA*. Narina Trogon.

I once met with this Trogon, in June or July last, sitting motionless on a branch on the outskirts of Chirinda; unfortunately I was much too close for a shot, and while I was retreating and changing my cartridge the bird flew into the forest and was lost. My boy, however, informed me that this species is occasionally met with in all parts of the district, though everywhere rare.

117. *CAMPOTHERA ABINGDONI*. Golden-tailed Woodpecker.

I have shot only one of these Woodpeckers, in May, in the heart of Chirinda, but think it highly probable that it is this species which is so frequently met with in the forest-

patches. I was first attracted by its loud laughing note, and found the bird busily engaged in eating ants which had made their nest in an upright decayed branch at some distance from the ground. It measured in the flesh 8.75 inches, and the stomach contained hundreds of a small black tree-ant in all stages of development, as well as a millipede.

Since writing the above I have secured a second example (a female) in Chipete, and watched another at close quarters in Chirinda.

118. *CAMPOTHERA BENNETTI*. Bennett's Woodpecker.

Not an uncommon species in the open woods, particularly in the thorn-and-Jihu type of country.

119. *DENDROPICUS CARDINALIS*. Cardinal Woodpecker.

In numbers and distribution this species nearly resembles the preceding. I used frequently to see both at Mafusi, but I believe that neither frequents the patches of true forest.

120. *INDICATOR VARIEGATUS*. Scaly-throated Honey-guide.

I have seen only one specimen of this Honey-guide, a male trapped last May in Chirinda by means of a falling stone which I had set for *Xenocichla*, baited, strange to say, with a piece of guava. I can only suppose that Hymenoptera of some kind must have been attracted to the guava, and that the bird, in pursuing them, settled on the twig. The stomach contained only bees-wax. A Honey-guide, probably *I. minor*, is common throughout the Jihu, where honey is particularly abundant, but I have not yet secured specimens. The Abandawo have the usual native idea with regard to these birds, to the effect that, if a portion of the comb is not set aside for them, they will sometimes give the offender another chance by shewing him a second nest, but should he still prove ungrateful, will then infallibly lead him to a lion, a snake, or some other dangerous animal. The native always whistles in reply to a bird when following it.

121. *LYBIUS TORQUATUS*. Black-collared Barbet.

Called by the natives "Mkweboro" (Tshindawo), in allusion to its call of "*kweboro! kweboro! kweboro!*" It is not an uncommon bird on the high veld, and I met with two or three examples on the Lower Umswirezi in November.

122. *BARBATULA BILINEATA*. White-browed Tinker.

On emerging from the forest the other day, I suddenly found myself in the midst of a crowd of small forest-birds of all descriptions, flying in the bright sunshine about the branches of a couple of large *Rauwolfias*—always a favourite spot. They included a pair of these little Tinkers insect-hunting like the rest, and I was able to watch them from within a few feet for some time before being observed. I have since heard their note again at the same spot; it may be imitated fairly accurately by the syllable Q-ing! (using the Zulu Q).

123. *TRACHYPHONUS CAFER*. Levaillant's Barbet.

I found a skin of this Barbet in a Dutch farmhouse, ten miles to the north of Chirinda, in May 1901; and was informed that it had recently been shot close to the homestead.

124. *CHRYSOCOCCYX SMARAGDINEUS*. Emerald Cuckoo.

I heard the note of this species three or four times while passing through the valley of the Lower Umswirezi at the commencement of November, and Mr. Stanley informs me that he has obtained a specimen at Mafusi.

125. *CHRYSOCOCCYX KLAASI*. Klaas's Cuckoo.

I shot one of these birds in a large thorn-tree close to the Umswirezi River on the same occasion. The crop contained nineteen small green caterpillars.

[In a letter Mr. Swynnerton informs us that the "contents of the stomach" described above (p. 73) as those of *Campophaga nigra* were really those of an example of the present species.—EDD.]

126. *CHRYSOCOCCYX CUPREUS*. Didric Cuckoo.

This Cuckoo was extremely common in the same locality

at the commencement of November, in the stunted bush of the flats, passing from tree to tree with a low swooping flight and frequently uttering its characteristic call. I have also shot it in the Jihu, and it is not very uncommon in other parts of the district, where it prefers grass-jungle country.

127. *COCCYSTES HYPOPINARIUS*. Black-and-Grey Cuckoo.

I have seen several specimens of this species during the past season, and secured two in February and the commencement of March; it will probably prove to be a not uncommon summer visitor. The natives state that it always calls before rain. The crops examined contained numbers of large hairy caterpillars.

128. *CENTROPUS BURCHELLI*. Burchell's Coucal.

This species is common in the vleis and along the river-banks throughout the district, and is not infrequently found in grass-jungle country at great distances from water; I have seen several of its nests, placed low in a thicket near a stream or in a dense patch of grass-jungle, and domed and constructed as described by Mr. Darling (quoted by Mr. Marshall in 'The Ibis,' 1900, p. 253), but I have never noticed that mud entered into their construction in any way. A stomach examined contained beetles and grasshoppers. The native name of this bird is an imitation of its loud oft-repeated cry, uttered most persistently, they say, before heavy rains. There is no local prejudice against the flesh of the Coucal as is the case with the Zulus, amongst whom it is said to be eaten only by the old women; here it is regarded as fit food for all ages and sexes.

129. *CENTROPUS NIGRORUFUS*. Natal Coucal.

Found in the same localities as the preceding species, but not quite so common.

When what are now known as the Abandawo, says a native story, first came to the country, Mapungana, one of their chiefs (a hereditary title still in use), ordered the Coucal and the Fruit-Pigeon to serve out cloth to the people, who were naked. The Coucal first took the cloth, stretched it

repeatedly, but every time laid it down again saying "I-i-i-i" (a negative implying reluctance, and in this case, of course, an imitation of the bird's note)—the stretch of cloth was too big; it was a pity to waste such good stuff on a lot of naked men! Finally it had to be distributed by the Fruit-Pigeon.

130. *TURACUS LIVINGSTONII*. Livingstone's Touraco.

This lovely bird is the common Touraco of Chirinda, and is also found in the wooded kloofs and forest-patches of other portions of the district. Its call is a bold crowing "*kurrrr kurrrr-kurrrr*," several times repeated—harsh, no doubt, but to my mind exhilarating and by no means unpleasant, which may be heard at all times of the day, but particularly towards evening, and to a somewhat less extent in the early morning. It is a somewhat unsociable bird, usually going about in pairs, though sometimes, particularly at the close of the breeding-season, as many as four or five individuals—a family-party, probably—may be found about one spot, answering one another or crowing in chorus. Again, it is not unusual to see large numbers—a dozen or so—feeding together on the ripe fruit of some large forest-tree; but these merely collect for a common purpose, and, when satisfied, disperse singly or in pairs. In October 1901 two young birds, just getting their wing-quills, were brought to me; the nest, which I subsequently saw, was a rough flat structure of small sticks, placed about twelve feet from the ground in a small tree standing beside a stream in a kloof. One of these birds, when commencing to fly, abruptly ended its career in a bucket of milk; the survivor lived for two and a half years, becoming extremely tame and a most charming pet. On one occasion it was taken in the night, presumably by a wild cat, the aviary being in bad repair, and feathers and blood on the ground indicated that I should not see it again. What was my surprise later in the day to find Mr. Gwala-gwala on his accustomed perch, minus his tail and a good many other feathers and somewhat cut about the hinder parts, but as jaunty as ever, having returned of his own accord. I fed this bird chiefly on

bananas, but when fruit was scarce it would eat mealie-meal porridge fairly readily and appeared to thrive on it. Though taking no notice of other birds placed in the same cage while it was still young, I have little doubt that later it would have proved aggressive, for on my shewing it a pair of young Purple-crested Touracos, not long before its death, it puffed up its velvety back-feathers, spread its wings and tail, and, leaning forward, crowed loudly several times and attempted to attack them through the bars. It was very fond of water, bathing in hot weather several times a day—merely, however, splashing the water over itself a few times and then at once making for a sunny perch, where it drooped its wings and spread out its tail- and rump-feathers to dry. According to the natives, the eggs of this species are always two in number and pure white. In my tame bird, and in all others which I have examined, the bill and eyelids have been carmine. The length of this bird in the flesh is from 17 to 18 inches. The stomachs examined contained wild figs and other fruits, whole or nearly so; I found three-fourths of a wild fig 1.25 inch in diameter in one of them.

131. GALLIREX PORPHYREOLOPHUS. Purple-crested Touraco.

This is the Touraco of the open woods, and is particularly fond of the large trees and clumps of dense bush growing on ant-heaps; it may often be seen flying from clump to clump, and traversing each with three or four long hops before proceeding to the next. I have never found it in the forest. It is a bold and strikingly-coloured bird, but quite lacks the grace and soft beauty of the preceding species. Two young birds were brought to me by a native in February 1905; he stated that the nest was placed in a bush, ten or twelve feet from the ground, and resembled that of a Dove, and that two was the usual number of the clutch. One of these fledglings has survived, having been kept till recently in a large aviary with a number of other birds, towards which, however, it has become very aggressive. It is extremely

inquisitive, and its curiosity appeared to be first aroused by the metallic spots on the wings of the Tympanistrius; these it attacked, plucking out the coloured feathers, and on finding that no resistance was made, proceeded to completely strip the backs of its victims and to attack the Haplopias. It has thus, from time to time, killed a good many of the Doves, apparently out of sheer exuberance of spirits, for it never attempts to eat either the feathers or the birds themselves. Just after sunset it becomes particularly lively and aggressive, taking long hops from perch to perch, crowing, and giving a peck here and a peck there to each of the Doves, already sleepy and settling down for the night, as it passes: then it returns, never assailing any individual persistently, but finally sometimes felling one by dint of repeated attacks—for they merely sit still and cower. When one falls to the ground the Touraco descends, gives it the *coup-de-grâce*, in the form of two or three sharp blows on the back of the head, and then resumes its sport. It never attacks the Roller, the Parrot, or the Bulbuls, having found probably that these birds resent its first attempts in that direction. It feeds readily from the hand and, after a meal, retires to some higher branch and there sits, puffed out and lethargic, with its head well down between its shoulders, making a continual slight rasping noise, comparable perhaps to snoring, for half an hour or more: when in this condition it greatly enjoys having its breast stroked. Not infrequently it will eat a few small grasshoppers; but it is clumsy with regard to the larger locusts, going about and bruising them on the branches somewhat after the manner of an insectivorous bird, but usually letting them drop after a few seconds. When annoyed, or hungry and excited by the sight of food, it will utter a loud quick “*ká-ka-ká-ka-ká!*,” a note common to both Touracos, and frequently heard in the forest. It is exceedingly tame, but when outside the aviary will not come to the hand so readily as would my *T. livingstonii*, seeming to take an impudent delight in teasing its pursuer. Its running powers are remarkable: being at large on one occasion when I had to

leave home for a few days, it had to be captured, and when, after a long chase amongst the gum-trees, it took to the ground—cultivated but bare—it ran, apparently not thinking of flight, for a distance of more than two hundred yards before I myself and seven Kafirs, close on its heels from the start, could secure it; it was then considerably exhausted. This Touraco may frequently be seen running along the horizontal branches of large trees, but its speed on this occasion and the distance covered were a revelation to me. The natives believe that, should a Touraco fly across the road and call, it indicates that they will find a buck or a beer-drink on ahead; its crimson wing-quills are greatly prized by them, and in former times used to be reserved for the king.

132. SCHIZORHIS CONCOLOR. Grey Touraco.

The "Go-away" Bird does not occur, so far as I am aware, on the highlands, but it is said to be common in the Sabi Valley. It is good eating, and I well remember an excellent meal made off these birds in June 1899, on the Odzi, where they were common in the bush bordering the river. My companion at first refused to touch them, but, doubtless persuaded thereto by my evident enjoyment, and by the fact that we had no other meat, he finally made the attempt and was quite converted by the first mouthful. Strange to say, our Kafirs, a Matabele and a Mashona, refused to touch the meat, though they had eagerly devoured Hawks a few days before. I have found the flesh of *Turacus livingstonii* to be also excellent. I was once informed by a native that the people regard the "Umdhluwe" as a spy, believing that it will inform of any crime or wrong action which it may witness, and are consequently careful of their behaviour in its presence: should this be at all generally believed, a tame "Go-away" would be a most desirable acquisition in the house! Its nest, they state, resembles that of the preceding species.

133. PŒOCEPHALUS ROBUSTUS. Le Vaillant's Parrot.

This is the common Parrot of Chirinda and of the highlands in general; I also found it in Gunye's country, low

veld east of Mafusi's, in June 1900. The birds leave the forest daily at sunrise, and fly, screaming, in parties of from two to eight, to their feeding-grounds throughout the surrounding country, frequently covering considerable distances. At sunset they return, settling on the bare topmost branches of the tallest lightning-struck Khayas, which generally protrude above the general forest-level, and after a short halt for rest and conversation—their notes when settled are mostly of a milder and more conversational nature than the harsh screams uttered in flying—proceed towards the heart of the forest. I have never found one of their actual roosting-places. They are extremely punctual, and on misty mornings or rainy days, when without a clock, the shrieks of the Parrots passing overhead have frequently been my only indication that it was time to commence or to knock off work. The natives, too, regard them in the light of time-pieces in such weather. Though as a rule shy and extremely difficult of approach, if one of a party has been shot or merely slightly wounded the rest will circle round with loud cries, returning time after time to the same spot, and I have little doubt that, if anyone should so desire, he might sometimes kill every bird. Apparently adults of this species do not take kindly to confinement; out of several which, to my knowledge, have been caged in this neighbourhood, not one appears to have survived for more than a few weeks. According to the natives, in the Jihu and other parts where Kafir-corn (*Sorghum*) is grown the Parrots are in the habit of biting off the ripe heads and carrying them away to hollow trees, where they lay up a store for the time when the crops are off the land.

134. PŒOCEPHALUS FUSCICAPILLUS. Brown-headed Parrot.

A single specimen of this Parrot was brought to me in April 1895 by a native, who had caught it with bird-lime in the Jihu; it lived in my aviary till November, when it died. Though wild enough for a time, it was remarkably tame for a fortnight or so before its death, climbing down daily to my hand and picking the grains from a mealie-

cob; it was noticeably sick only for a day before its death. This sudden tameness before death appears not to be uncommon, Mr. Marshall informing me that he has seen several instances of it in his aviary at Salisbury.

135. *PŒOCEPHALUS MEYERI*. Meyer's Parrot.

I saw a good many of these little Parrots in Gunye's country, east of the Sitatonga forest, in June 1900, and am informed that this is the common species of the Sabi Valley. I do not remember having seen it on the highlands.

136. *STRIX FLAMMEA*. Barn-Owl.

I have never myself seen this species here, but Kafirs, when shown my Salisbury skin, have invariably recognised it, imitating its cry more or less correctly, and stating that it is not very uncommon. Though looking on this Owl as a bird of ill-omen, they do not regard it, or, for that matter, *Syrnium woodfordi*, with the same dread as they do *Bubo lacteus*.

The look of intense wisdom on an Owl's countenance is remarked by the natives, and they usually represent it in their stories as a somewhat silly person with a vast idea of his own intellect: one story, too long to quote in full, makes the Owl cut rather a poor figure beside the Parrot, which they regard as a distinctly clever bird.

137. *BUBO MACULOSUS*. Spotted Eagle-Owl.

This is the common Owl of the open woodlands, usually roosting in trees, though on one or two occasions I have put it up out of long grass. I have once seen it on the outskirts of Chirinda, but do not believe that it frequents the large forest-patches to any extent. As in Europe, the Owl is here regarded as a bird of evil omen, its cry over a hut in which a person is lying sick being said to destroy all hope of recovery, and in any case to presage death or disaster. The stomach of one of these birds contained a number of large weevils, swallowed whole.

138. *BUBO LACTEUS*. Verreaux's Eagle-Owl.

As elsewhere, this Owl is said by the natives here to feed chiefly on Guinea-fowls, and it will also occasionally make a descent on a poultry-yard; my neighbour, Dr. Thompson, having had fowls taken by it for several nights in succession. The Kafir superstitions with regard to Owls in general reach their height in reference to the present species. They state that it will sometimes swoop down and strike on the back of the head a person travelling by night, and that on arriving at home he will find his wife, his children, or other near relatives dead or dying, or, failing that, that he will himself infallibly die within a short period. No one will attack one of these birds or fire at it with a bow, fearing disaster; and even should one have been accidentally caught in a trap, they will cut it loose with a long knife or assegai, taking care not to touch it with their hands. Again, should an Owl take up its abode in a tree close to a kraal and hoot there night after night, the inhabitants will desert the spot. The witch-doctors are said to have no "medicine" strong enough to ward off disaster from an Owl-struck person.

139. *SYRNIUM WOODFORDI*. Woodford's Owl.

The common Owl of Chirinda, where it may be heard any evening on entering the forest; its usual call resembles the words "Who-are-you?" the middle syllable being slurred and a long stress placed on the last, and is distinctly pleasing. The adult has an unusually human expression. A stomach examined contained a grasshopper, a longicorn and other beetles, and some fur, probably of a mouse; but it is quite likely that these Owls will also take roosting birds, as I have caught one with a noose set high in a tree and baited with a small bird. Two adults measured in the flesh 12.5 and 13.5 inches respectively; the cere and legs were of the same shade of Naples yellow; the iris was very dark brown. At the end of October a young bird, then a mere ball of white fluff, which had doubtless fallen from a nest in one of the forest-paths, was brought to me by a friend who had picked it up; it is still alive and flourishing. I feed it on locusts,

grasshoppers, the livers of fowls, and the bodies of any birds that I shoot or trap.

140. *FALCO BIARMICUS*. South-African Lanner.

A few months ago I saw and fired at one of these fine Falcons, when a pair were flying overhead on the outskirts of Chirinda, but failed to secure it.

141. *TINNUNCULUS RUPICOLA*. South-African Kestrel.

This is the commonest of our smaller Hawks, and the only Kestrel which I have actually shot in the district, though I have seen what I took to be *T. naumanni* on various occasions. The present species may not infrequently be observed perched on a stake or dry tree, sometimes in the centre of a cultivated field.

142. *BAZA VERREAUXI*. Cuckoo Falcon.

I first shot one of these birds in the neighbourhood of Salisbury, but I have in my Gazaland collection a second skin, unlabelled, about which I have no clear recollections. Presumably I obtained it in the neighbourhood of Mafusi some years ago.

143. *AQUILA RAPAX*. Tawny Eagle.

In July last I shot a fine female of this species about ten miles to the north of Chirinda; it was sitting on the top of a low tree feasting on two full-grown Ravens (*Corvultur albicollis*), which it had just killed, and it allowed the trap and mules to get within thirty yards of it without moving. Again, at the beginning of this month (March) I saw another of these birds at close quarters, perched on a horizontal bough; at a little distance was a large flat structure of sticks, placed in the fork of a tree, which may have been its nest, but I was unfortunately too much pressed for time to make my way through the grass-jungle to investigate it.

144. *AQUILA WAHLBERGI*. Wahlberg's Eagle.

Not uncommon. I have seen it in various parts of the district.

145. LOPHOAËTUS OCCIPITALIS. Crested Hawk-Eagle.

This is our commonest Eagle, being met with throughout the highlands, inclusive of Mafusi and the Jihu. I found it particularly plentiful in January on the Lower Zona and its tributaries, where it used to follow the stream, in search, the natives said, of "mabuzi" (voles), flying a short distance and settling on some conspicuous tree or stump, whence, after a short stay, it would again move on. Our local natives, unlike the Zulus, regard this as a very wise bird, saying that it knows everything. Should a man have had a goat taken by a wild beast and be following the aggressor, or should he be overtaken by nightfall while searching for lost cattle or small stock, and have the good fortune to come on an "Ifinye" moving its crest from side to side as is its wont, he will immediately follow its general direction, the opposite to that in which the bird is looking; should the crest, however, remain at rest, the bird knows nothing about the matter in hand. Again, should it perch in a tree close to a kraal, as in winter it will probably not infrequently do (for I have myself noticed that these birds then roam over the country, away from the rivers, to a greater extent), the inhabitants will call to it repeatedly, "Finye, Finye, doro riripi?" (where is the beer), and on its commencing to move its crest in the manner described, will note to which other kraal it points and troop off thither *en masse*, in full expectation of finding a beer-drink in progress. Should they, however, be disappointed (they say they seldom are!), they do not conclude that the bird was wrong, but merely that it must have been referring to some other kraal further on, and certainly at the above-mentioned time of year one could not visit many kraals in any given direction without finally coming on a beer-drink.

146. HELOTARSUS ECAUDATUS. Bateleur Eagle.

This handsome Eagle is not very uncommon, being usually seen sailing high in mid-air.

147. CIRCAËTUS PECTORALIS. Black-breasted Harrier-Eagle.

A common species so far as any of the Accipitres, with the

exception of *Lophoaëtus occipitalis*, *Milvus ægyptius*, and perhaps *Aquila wahlbergi*, can be said to be common in this district, as compared with the more northern portions of Mashonaland. It is exceedingly bold, carrying off fowls from the homesteads and Kafir kraals, and living, the natives state, chiefly on hares, snakes, and Guinea-fowls, with an occasional blue-buck or monkey. On one occasion, near Salisbury, when I had shot a wild Duck, one of these birds, which had been hovering high overhead, had the impudence to carry it off. I had got out of range in an attempt to find a fordable spot in a stream. The ceres of the two specimens shot by myself were of a pale greenish grey colour and the legs paler still, whitish—evidently the colour referred to by Mr. Marshall, not olive-yellow. One of these birds had swallowed a stick nearly three inches in length; this was worn smooth by the action of the stomach, which also contained beetles.

In connection with this Eagle, the natives have a folk-tale which professes to account for the relations at present existing between Hawks and the weaker birds. Long ago, they say, the Eagle invited his cousin, the Dove, to accompany him on a visit to his wife's relations; on the road they halted, and, rubbing their fire-sticks, produced a blaze, at which the Dove commenced to warm up the cooked beans and porridge which he had thoughtfully brought. The Eagle, however, had brought nothing, and the Dove, ascertaining this, refused him a share of the food. They thereupon quarrelled, and the Eagle, flying up into the tree overhead, watched the Dove for some time as it cooked its food, and finally pounced upon it, killed and ate it, thus founding a custom which has continued to this day.

148. *ASTURINULA MONOGRAMMICA*. African Buzzard-Eagle.

I have met with this Hawk in the open woods between Chirinda and the Buzi, and also in the neighbourhood of the Sitatonga range, but it is nowhere common.

149. *MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS*. Yellow-billed Kite.

This is the most plentiful, for a few months, of all our

birds of prey. It first appears in September, and the Kafirs regard its coming as a signal to prepare the ground for the season's crops. For some time after its arrival it may be seen wherever a grass-fire is in progress, seizing the locusts and other insects as they fly from the flames and eating them, held firmly in one claw, while on the wing. It also accompanies the swarms of locusts, and during this time is not so troublesome to the poultry-yard as a little later, during the breeding-season. At the end of October I found a pair nesting high in a large African mahogany (*Khaya senegalensis*) close to the homestead of one of my neighbours. The nest, which was inaccessible, was a large structure of sticks. This species leaves us in February, and the local natives believe that at that time it retires to a hollow tree, where it has already laid up a store of dried meat (small birds, mice, lizards, &c.) and a quantity of locusts, and there, losing all its feathers and becoming perfectly bald and blind, remains in a helpless state, sustained by its store of meat and locusts, till the following spring, when its feathers grow, its eyes regain their sight, and it sallies forth to once again harry the chickens for a season.

150. *ASTUR TACHIRO*. African Goshawk.

Mr. Stanley writes that he has just obtained one of these birds at Mafusi.

151. *ASTUR POLYZONOIDES*. Little Banded Goshawk.

By no means so plentiful as in the neighbourhood of Salisbury. I kept a pair of young birds for a short time last spring, but they were exceedingly quarrelsome and finally had a battle royal, in the course of which the stronger bird slew and ate her brother, subsequently herself dying of her wounds.

152. *CIRCUS MACRURUS*. Pale Harrier.

Occasionally seen skimming over the hills with its low graceful flight: at least one individual, and possibly more, remained with us throughout the past winter, and was to be seen almost daily beating over an early "burn" in the immediate neighbourhood of my homestead.

153. *GYPS KOLBII*. Kolbe's Griffon.

I saw numbers of these birds in Gunye's country in 1900, and they appear to be extremely abundant throughout the low veld, where the number of bucks killed by wild animals ensures a constant food-supply. Vultures are seldom or never seen on the highlands, and even during the recent deadly outbreak of African coast-fever, when the cattle were dying by hundreds, the Ravens were the only birds which came to feast on the carcasses. One of these Vultures, gorged and brought to bay, once attempted to attack me.

154. *SERPENTARIUS SECRETARIUS*. Secretary-Bird.

I have frequently observed this bird in pairs on the open hills covered with short grass, which surround Melsetter.

155. *PHALACROCORAX LUCIDUS*. White-breasted Duiker.

Fairly plentiful on all the larger streams.

156. *CICONIA ALBA*. White Stork.

In November a number of these birds arrived with a swarm of locusts, and remained for a considerable time stalking about my cultivated lands and devouring the locusts which were covering the ground. They were very tame, allowing me to approach within thirty yards, and then merely walking away at the same pace as myself and occasionally looking back while continuing their feast.

157. *CICONIA NIGRA*. Black Stork.

I have seen this "Locust-bird," as the Storks are locally called, on several occasions each winter for the past three years, but it usually passes over at a great height. Last October, however, in company with Mr. Marshall, I had an opportunity, for the first time, of observing these birds at closer range, as they flapped slowly backwards and forwards through a large swarm of locusts which was settling on the outskirts of Chirinda. On my attempting to procure a specimen, they did not make off at once, but rose gradually in ever-widening circles until they had reached the required elevation.

158. *LEPTOPTILUS CRUMENIFERUS*. Marabou.

I am informed by Mr. J. Ballantyne that he has met with this bird on the Sabi.

159. *SCOPUS UMBRETTA*. Hammerkop.

Occasionally seen flying overhead and doubtless commoner in the neighbourhood of the rivers. The natives have a superstition to the effect that anyone burning the nest of this bird will go mad, and will follow the bird in its wanderings until he dies of exhaustion. They further believe that if a "Tegwan" crosses their path it is a sign that they must turn back and abandon their enterprise for the day, whereas if it flies straight ahead or straight back it is safe to proceed. The appearance of one of these birds near a kraal is considered unlucky and a witch-doctor is promptly consulted. It is believed that they will sometimes visit the hut of a witch-doctor unseen and abstract some of his medicine or charms, carrying them off to their nest. The doctors, on the other hand, will sometimes raid the home of the bird in search of odds and ends to add to their pharmacopœia, for the Tegwan is regarded as a powerful medicine-man and ordinary Kafirs are afraid to meddle with its possessions in any way.

160. *HERODIAS GARZETTA*. Little Egret.

I am told that of late one of these Egrets has frequently been seen feeding amongst the cattle of my neighbour, Mr. J. A. Jansen; and I have heard of other instances from time to time, though I do not remember to have observed the bird here myself.

161. *PÆCILONETTA ERYTHORHYNCHA*. Red-bill.

This is the only Duck which I have so far had an opportunity of identifying, though two other species appear to occur commonly enough in the district, one of them being, I believe, *Anas sparsa*.

162. *VINAGO DELALANDII*. Delalande's Green Pigeon.

Extremely common throughout the district and usually to be found feeding in flocks wherever wild figs or other ripe fruits are to be had, while frequently visiting the forest-

patches for food, though in this case it seldom descends below the upper branches of the trees. It is evidently double-brooded, as I have had the young brought to me in October and again have found a nest with eggs—the usual frail structure of sticks, about ten feet from the ground—in Chirinda (somewhat to my surprise) in January; the large wild fig-trees which are scattered through the more open country are favourite nesting-sites. They are stolid birds, those in my aviary, even when freshly caught, allowing me to approach quite close before moving, and merely staring stupidly though quite evidently in fear. The call is a piping “*kureti, kureti kureti,*” followed by a harsh “*kurrrr.*” The natives say that one individual out of a flock will sometimes purposely give a false alarm, returning immediately and enjoying the feast alone.

163. *TURTUR SEMITORQUATUS.* Red-eyed Dove.

Though this species is not nearly so common in some parts of the highlands as the following, I have nevertheless met with it frequently enough throughout the district, and in the Jihu it quite takes the place of *Turtur capicola* as the common Dove of the Kafir kraals. It is also extremely abundant in the Mafusi country. When Chirinda offers any special attraction, as at the time of the ripening of the berries of the “Musuguta,” a large Euphorbiaceous tree, these Doves may be seen flying thither in parties of three or four, though at other times they prefer the open woods or the neighbourhood of streams. The note is imitated by the natives as “*ku ! ku ! hambá'sikú !*” the words (Coo ! Coo ! Go by night !) being presumably purely fanciful and without reference to any habit, real or imaginary, on the part of the bird. I at present (end of March) know a nest, a somewhat solid structure, built solely of sticks, fifteen feet from the ground, on which the bird is sitting on two eggs.

164. *TURTUR CAPICOLA.* Cape Turtle-Dove.

This, the common Dove of the mountains, is found in considerable numbers in the neighbourhood of Kafir kraals and homesteads. It is extremely tame, and the individuals

frequenting my gum-trees come readily to any food which may be thrown down. The call resembles the syllables "ku-kōro! ku-kōro!" often repeated, the middle one long-drawn. The birds in my aviary frequently call at night.

165. *TURTUR SENEGALENSIS*. Laughing-Dove.

A Dove which I shot in the open bush of the Umswizezi Valley on the 1st of November was, I think, undoubtedly referable to this species. The skin was unfortunately lost.

166. *ŒNA CAPENSIS*. Namaqua Dove.

Rather locally distributed, appearing to prefer grass-jungle country: I found it common enough in the Shikamboge Valley in the winter of 1899, and it is plentiful on the Jihu-covered hills between Spungabera and the Inyamadzi, a few miles east of Chirinda.

167. *HAPLOPELIA LARVATA*. Lemon-Dove.

Extremely common in Chirinda, though more frequently heard than seen, for it is exceedingly shy and keeps closely to the undergrowth when startled from the ground where it has been feeding. Several stomachs examined contained the seeds of such trees as happened to be fruiting, and in one case tender green leaves—with, usually, a few small snails, the shells aiding, I imagine, in digestion, for grit must be somewhat hard to obtain in the loamy soil of a great portion of the forest. I have kept as many as thirty of these Doves in a large aviary at one time, and though they finally lose their excessive fear of a human being, they remain extremely nervous, a very slight alarm at night being sufficient to set the whole number in a senseless flutter. This disturbance, once started, is repeated at frequent intervals till morning, when two or three of the birds may be found on the ground in an exhausted condition. They are unusually gentle and sweet-tempered for Doves, and, were it not for this unfortunate nervousness, would make excellent pets.

I have noticed two distinct types—one duskier as regards both breast and forehead; the other and, I should say,

rather the commoner type, somewhat brighter generally with a pure white forehead; I have supposed that the latter might possibly be *H. johnstoni* Shelley (Ibis, 1893, p. 28, pl. iii.).

These Doves appear to be single-brooded, commencing to lay early in January with the ripening of the "Umkuhlu" seeds (*Trichilia dregeana*). This is a most unfortunate time, for the forest is then filled with women and children gathering the seeds in baskets for the purpose of oil-making, who, though they do not themselves eat the eggs, take all that they can find, beating them up and cooking them as food for their infants: they also use the eggs of this bird, of *Tympanistria*, and of other large species for anointing swellings of a venereal nature with a view to reducing the inflammation.

The nest is a flimsy and transparent platform of small sticks, placed in a shrub or sapling at a distance of from six to fifteen feet from the ground; the eggs, of the usual elliptical form, two in number and creamy white in colour, measure from 29 to 31 mm. in length by about 23 in breadth. One of the birds in my aviary (a brightly-coloured individual) commenced to build at the end of December, and would quite likely have bred had it not been killed by some Duikers which I had placed in the same building. Length in the flesh 10.75 to 11.12 inches. Iris, legs and feet, eyelids and patch in front of eye carmine; bare skin round the eye, soles and back of the tarsi pale grey; bill black. The call is a deep "iwoo! iwoo!" usually repeated several times, slowly.

168. TYMPANISTRIA BICOLOR. Tambourine Dove.

This charming little Dove is hardly less common in Chirinda than the preceding species, which it resembles in its shy and retiring habits, in its food, and, according to a native informant, in its time of nesting. Last November, however, I was shown a nest in course of construction, so that possibly two broods are reared in the year; it was a flimsy structure of twigs, with a little moss, and was placed somewhat

conspicuously, about three and a half feet from the ground, in the fork of a shrub. The low, mournful call of this bird is translated by the natives into quite a long complaint, which runs as follows, with frequent pauses: "This year I have not slept: sleep has not come: I am surprised at these people—they have come and taken my children: I am distressed—bereaved; ku ku," &c. A number of these birds in my aviary shew the same excess of nervousness as the *Haplopelias*.

Length in the flesh 8.25 to 8.8 inches. Iris brown; legs dusky purple; bill blackish, basal half with a strong purplish tinge.

169. *CHALCOPELIA AFRA*. Emerald-spotted Dove.

I shot one of these birds in January in the Jihu, where they seem to be fairly common along the course of the Kurumadzi.

170. *FRANCOLINUS COQUI*. Coqui Francolin.

On one occasion only have I put this bird up in this district, between Chirinda and the Buzi, and I have never heard its call. I am informed, however, that it is found in the Sabi Valley.

171. *FRANCOLINUS SHELLI*. Shelley's Francolin.

Comparatively plentiful throughout the district, though less abundant than the so-called Pheasant (*Pternistes*). Its characteristic call is one of the commonest sounds of the early morning, and is rendered by the natives as "*Pimbira* (a leg is said to be raised as the bird says this) *kokwe* (leg down), *Pimbira kokwe!*" To myself the cry sounds most like "*Tel-él-kebír,*" repeatedly uttered.

172. *PTERNISTES NUDICOLLIS*. Red-necked Francolin.

This is the commonest Francolin of the district, particularly in grass-jungle. It is a most provoking bird to anyone stalking a buck, for it is extremely wary, apparently capable of detecting his presence at a considerable distance, and gives the alarm by rising suddenly with a clamour like that of a frightened Blackbird, but far louder. It is destructive to the natives' crops, and they have to watch morning and evening to prevent its entering their fields.

173. *NUMIDA CORONATA*. Crowned Guinea-fowl.

Common everywhere, though less so in the Jihu and the Umshantzi foot-hills, where its place is taken by the following species. The natives will not eat the head of this bird, believing that, should they do so, any children which they may beget will possess a permanent bald strip through the centre of the crown, corresponding to the Guinea-fowl's horn. "*Tapera, tapera, tapera!*" (we're finished, we're finished, &c.) is their rendering of the call of this bird.

174. *GUTTERA EDOUARDI*. Crested Guinea-fowl.

I have on several occasions met with a handsome Crested Guinea-fowl in the dense jungle of the Jihu and the Umshantzi, where it goes about in huge flocks, but I have no specimen in my collection and it is about six years since I handled one; my impression, however, corroborated by natives, is that the spotted plumage is continued over the whole breast. According to them, there are two kinds of "ndhori," the second, a somewhat solitary bird, distinctly larger than the other and with a black breast, occurring chiefly in the forest and the denser thickets. I have on two or three occasions put up Crested Guinea-fowls in Chirinda singly or in pairs, but always supposed them to be identical with the common species of the foot-hills. The call is not unlike that of the Common Guinea-fowl, but possesses a peculiar break which serves at once to distinguish it.

175. *LIMNOCORAX NIGER*. Black Crake.

I saw several of these birds at the beginning of June 1900, on the water-lilies of the Amanzimhlope, a stream in Gunye's country.

176. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS*. Moor-Hen.

Observed on the Chinyika at the end of October; probably not uncommon on all our larger streams.

177. *OTIS MELANOGASTER*. Black-bellied Bustard.

Common on the grassy hills of Northern and Southern Melssetter.

178. *TOTANUS GLAREOLA*. Wood-Sandpiper.

Obtained by Mr. Stanley near Mafusi's.

179. *LOBIVANELLUS LATERALIS*. Wattled Plover.

Comparatively common along streams and vleis throughout the high veld.

180. *STRUTHIO AUSTRALIS*. Southern Ostrich.

The Ostrich is said to be abundant south of the Um-swirezi.

XIII.—Notes on the Parrots. (Part VIII.)

By T. SALVADORI, H.M.B.O.U.*

Fam. V. PSITTACIDÆ.

Subfam. PLATYCERCINÆ (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xx. p. 539).

PLATYCERCUS Vig.

PLATYCERCUS ELEGANS (Gm.); North †, Rec. Austr. Mus. v. pp. 265 (xanthochroism), 266 (melanism) (1904).

Platycercus elegans × *P. eximius* North, t. c. p. 267.

PLATYCERCUS NIGRESCENS Rams.; Sharpe, Hand-list, ii. p. 37, n. 4 (1900).

Platycercus elegans nigrescens Rob. & Laver. Ibis, 1900, p. 645 (Bellenden Ker).

Robinson and Laverock mentioned several specimens of this race as having the feathers of the head, hind-neck, and back not almost black, as stated by Ramsay, but dark red, and uniform in colour with the lower surface.

PLATYCERCUS AMATHUSIA Bp.; Rob. & Laver. Ibis, 1900, p. 645; Le Souef, Emu, iii. p. 55 (eggs) (1903).

"Like many specimens of its near ally, *P. pallidiceps*, the present species is frequently irregularly flecked with red about the head." (Rob. & Laver.)

* Concluded from p. 151.

† Cf. "On Heterochrosis in Australian *Psittaci*" (Rec. Austr. Mus. v. pp. 265-268, 1904).